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## THIS SORROW WE ARE BOUND TO FACE

As if we are driving along the highway, a pleasant  
straight-a-way, high-speed thoroughfare, and ahead  
we sight it, the first stop-light in a thousand miles.

Its color, faintly visible, is green. Beside us,  
a few vehicles pull into emergency lanes.  
Just as we decide the light will remain in our favor,

as you relax your grip, the color changes to yellow.  
Lined up, side-traffic is waiting to enter the intersection.  
Playing the odds, relying on others, more cautious,

to look out for you, should you hold the gas pedal  
to the floor? Trusting to luck, should you speed up,  
risk colliding with those gunning engines, eager

to rush forward at the first sign of green? Or,  
tapping the brake, should you pull toward the right,  
continue in low gear? Swerve into a parking lane?

Stop? So with us, with this disease the doctors  
have diagnosed: no side-roads, no turn-offs,  
no way we can go but ahead. Already

the caution light is lit, we coast to a halt  
as others, at full-speed, pull farther  
and farther in front, as we, at a standstill, recede.

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